

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 22313

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE INTERNAL SECURITY OPERATIONS
COMMAND (ISOC)

1. WITH THE RETIREMENT OF GENERAL KRIT SIWARA ON
30 SEPTEMBER 1975, A NEW SENIOR-OFFICER LINEUP HAS
EMERGED IN THE ROYAL THAI INTERNAL SECURITY AND OPERA-
TIONS COMMAND (ISOC). THE FOLLOWING SHOWS THE NEW TOP
LINEUP AT ISOC, WITH THE INCUMBENT'S NON-ISOC POSITION
SHOWN IN PARENTHESIS.

DIRECTOR GEN. BUNCHAI BAMRUNGPONG (CINC RTA)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

(MILITARY) GEN. SAIYUT KOETPHON (DEP C/S SCHQ)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GEN. CHOT HIRANYATTHITI (DEP CINC RTA)
(RTA)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR POL.LT. GEN SISUK (DIRECTOR GENERAL,
(POLICE) MAHINTARATHEP TNPD)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR NOT YET KNOWN
(CIVILIAN)

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GEN. PRACHUAP (ADVISOR
SUNTHARANGKUN RTA)

CHIEF OF STAFF LTG PRALONG WIRAPRIYA (ASSIGNED
SCHQ)

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DEPUTY C/S (PERS) LTG WITHUN YASAWAT (ASST C/S

PERS RTA)
DEPUTY C/S (LOG) LTG CHALOEM SUTTIRAK (ASST C/S
LOG, RTA)
DEPUTY C/S NOT YET KNOWN
(CIVILIAN)
DEPUTY C/S NOT YET KNOWN
(POLICE)
DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS MG PHINYO WATCHARATHET (NONE)
COORDINATION CENTER
ADVISOR GEN. KRIT SIWARA (RETIRED)

2. THE POSITION OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR (RTA) IS A NEW ONE.
A SINCEURE, IT WAS CREATED TO PROVIDE A SALARIED
ISOC SLOT FOR CHOT, WHO AS DEPUTY CINC RTA COULD HAVE
EXPECTED TO FILL THE ISOC DEPUTY DIRECTOR (MILITARY)
JOB. CREATION OF THE NEW SLOT ENABLED SAIYUT TO BE
APPOINTED TO THE MILITARY DEPUTY POSITION, THE ONLY
ONE OF THE FOUR DEPUTY SLOTS WITH ANY REAL POWER OR
FUNCTIONS.

3. THE ROLE THAT RETIRED GENERAL KRIT SIWARA WILL
PLAY IN ISOC IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH THE ISOC
STAFF IS SPECULATING THAT IT WILL BE AN ACTIVE ONE.
IF KRIT TAKES MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN ISOC IT WILL
BE A DEFINITE CHANGE FROM HIS PAST ASSOCIATION
WITH THE ORGANIZATION WHEN HE WAS ITS DIRECTOR.
HE DEMONSTRATED VERY LITTLE INTEREST IN ISOC AND
ITS COUNTERINSURGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES AND WAS
CONTENT TO LET SAIYUT, THEN CHIEF OF STAFF OF ISOC,
TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT.

4. SAIYUT'S NEW POSITION WITH ISOC MAY BE A
CONTROLLING ONE. A RECENT ISOC ORDER, NUMBER 84/1975,
INDICATES THAT HIS POLITICAL MANEUVERING WITH
BUNCHAI HAS SUCCEEDED AND THAT HE WILL, IN FACT, RUN
THE ISOC SHOW ON BUNCHAI'S BEHALF. SAIYUT RECENTLY
TOLD US THAT BUNCHAI WANTS IT SO.

5. THE ASSIGNMENT OF GENERALS PRACHUAP AND WITHUN,
BOTH OF WHOM HAVE SERVED IN SENIOR POLICE ASSIGNMENTS,
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BACK TO THE RTA WITH ADDITIONAL DUTIES IN ISOC WAS
A RECENT MAJOR BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN GENERAL
KRIT AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRAMAN WITH KRIT
EMERGING AS THE VICTOR. PRACHUAP APPARENTLY HAS NO
OTHER DUTY IN ISOC THAN THAT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
TO SAIYUT, WHOM PRACHUAP RANKS. THE SAIYUT-ORIENTED
ISOC STAFF NONETHELESS APPEARS APPREHENSIVE OVER THE ULTIMATE
ROLES THAT PRACHUAP AND WITHUN WILL PLAY IN SUBSTANTIVE

ISOC MATTERS WITH THEIR MENTOR KRIT BACK IN ISOC
AS THE SENIOR ADVISOR.

6. THERE STILL HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL RTG POLICY
STATEMENT ON COUNTERINSURGENCY, ON STRENGTHENING
ISOC'S DIRECTIVE AUTHORITY, OR ON THE NATIONAL
PRIORITY TO BE AFFORDED THE CI EFFORT. ISOC,
THEREFORE, PROBABLY WILL REMAIN A RELATIVELY
POWERLESS BUREAUCRATIC ELEMENT WITHIN THE DELICATELY-
BALANCED RTG POWER STRUCTURE REGARDLESS OF THE
CHANGE IN ITS CAST OF CHARACTERS.

7. COMMENT: THE RECENT FUROR OVER KEY RTA
ASSIGNMENTS BOTH WITHIN THE MILITARY
HEIRARCHY AND ISOC ONCE AGAIN CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES
THAT INTERNAL POLITICS STILL DOMINATE GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS. INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP POWER POSITIONS
ARE BASED ON CAREFUL COMBINATIONS AND MANEUVERING
AMONG CONTESTING POWER FACTIONS. IN THE CASE OF
ISOC PERSONNEL CHANGES, THE ORGANIZATION'S EFFECTIVE-
NESS COULD BECOME FURTHER IMPAIRED IN THE EVENT OF
INTERNECINE PERSONAL POLITICAL STRUGGLES AMONG THE
NEWLY-ASSIGNED SENIOR GENERAL OFFICERS AND THE OLD
ISOC STAFF.

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